

## Water-Storage Grant Projects

In the 2004 supplemental budget, the legislature provided \$9.65 million to the Department of Ecology to fund several water-storage projects including:

- **\$4 million for the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study.**
- **\$2.24 million for a first phase study to restore fish habitat in Manastash Creek in Kittitas County.**

In addition Ecology, in partnership with the state departments of Agriculture and Fish and Wildlife approved four early-implementation storage projects:

- **\$500,000 to the city of North Bend in King County.** The grant will help defray the cost of either pumping water from a nearby deep underground water source into the Snoqualmie River or constructing a pipeline to carry water from the Cedar River to the Snoqualmie.
- **\$450,000 to the East King County Regional Water Association.** The grant will be used to pay for pumping water from an underground source in the upper Snoqualmie River system during low-flow periods and put it directly in the river to help salmon migration. The association will monitor how the aquifer is replenished during wet months.
- **\$350,000 to Walla Walla County** to see whether two river-basin sites might be suitable to store water under ground for future uses.
- **\$200,000 for the Columbia River Initiative.**

Ecology allotted \$85,000 to administer the grant program. The remaining \$1.835 million was provided as grants for projects that met specific conditions and limitations.

In November 2003, Ecology solicited proposals for water-storage projects to be submitted by January 2004. The department received 15 proposals requesting funding totaling \$3,745,020.

The following proposals have been approved to receive water-storage study grant funding:

- **\$450,000 to the Chelan County Conservation District** to study how underground and surface waters interact, including how area aquifers are replenished, and to evaluate where and how water-storage sites might be developed along the Entiat River.
- **\$300,000 to Yelm (Thurston County)** to study the viability of storing water underground to augment flows in Yelm Creek or to replenish the Nisqually River aquifer.
- **\$285,000 to the Stevens County Public Utilities District** to cover survey work and engineering evaluations for diverting spring runoff from Loon Lake to an existing gravel pit or new infiltration trenches.

- **\$75,000 to the Stevens County Public Utilities District** to conduct hydrologic and environmental studies to determine whether to construct multiple ponds or a single large water-storage facility on private property owned by the Walter Davis family on Sheep Creek.
- **\$275,000 to the city of Walla Walla** to extend the geographic boundaries of its existing groundwater-modeling study area to explore potential effects of storing water underground and how recovering the water might influence regional underground and surface-water resources.
- **\$250,000 to the Agnew Irrigation District (Clallam County)** to design the Atterberry Irrigation Reservoir that would store about 500 acre-feet of water. Additional funds may be required to complete an environmental impact statement and permitting costs.
- **\$200,000 to the Asotin County Public Utilities District** to assess if storing water in shallow aquifers in the Tucannon or Clarkston valleys during the wet season can help maintain flows in the Tucannon River during drier times of the year.

### **Funding Purpose**

Funding was provided solely for:

- Developing plans;
- Engineering and financing reports;
- Acquiring lands and facilities; and
- Other preconstruction activities associated with development of water storage and groundwater storage and recovery projects.

In addition, proposed projects had to be consistent the recommendations of the Water Storage Task Force and the Governor's Water Strategy. Specifically, each project was required to:

- Address multiple purposes and multiple needs for water and/or flood control.
- Be planned and designed in the context of how water works within an entire basin or watershed.
- Small and medium-scaled projects using the full range of storage alternatives including off-channel storage, underground storage, the enlargement or enhancement of existing storage sites, or on-channel storage.
- Integrate storage with the water supply and delivery system(s) within an entire basin.

### **Funding Priority**

Grant funding was given to proposed projects that were identified as:

- Early action through watershed plans.
- Early action through Comprehensive Irrigation District Management Plans.
- Part of an approved habitat conservation plan or other intergovernmental agreement.

- Joint projects with federal agencies such as United States Bureau of Reclamation, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.